



## 2013 Promote the Vote CONTESTS

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *The 2013 Promote the Vote individual contests are open to any student attending a school registered with the Secretary of State's Office and participating in the Promote the Vote program for 2013-2014 academic year.*

### ELEMENTARY:

- **ART CONTEST ("No One Can Be ME, But ME" Theme)--** Grades K-2 and Grades 3-5.
- **VOTER ID DESIGN, design your own Voter ID card –** Grades k-2 and 3-6

### MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- **ART CONTEST ("No One Can Be ME, But ME" Theme) --** Grades 6-8.
- **POLITICAL CARTOON CONTEST ("No One Can Be ME, But ME" Theme) --** Grades 6-8.
- **STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST ("No One Can Be ME, But ME" Theme) --** Grades 6-8.

### HIGH SCHOOL:

- **ART CONTEST ("No One Can Be ME, But ME" Theme) --** Grades 9-12.
- **POLITICAL CARTOON CONTEST ("No One Can Be ME, But ME" Theme) --** Grades 9-12
- **STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST ("No One Can Be ME, But ME" Theme) --** Grades 9-12
- **ORATORY CONTEST ("No One Can Be ME, But ME" Theme) --** Grades 9-12

The purpose of these contests is to educate students on the political process with a particular emphasis on Mississippi's new Voter ID requirement and a need for political activism in local (municipal) elections and their impact on the local community.

# ELEMENTARY CONTESTS

## ART CONTEST

**“No One Can Be ME, But ME”**

Grades K-5

Two age-group categories: K-2 and 3-5.

We encourage students in *Promote the Vote* to express their patriotism and creativity by designing artwork depicting civic responsibility and voter participation. Many times the works of these young artists make the most lasting impressions.

- This year's K-2<sup>nd</sup> and Grade 3-5 Grade Art Contests draw inspiration from our 2013 PTV theme: **“No One Can Be Me, But ME.”** Art entries should illustrate the student's interpretation of this year's theme.

All entries become the property of the Secretary of State's Office.

Awards will be granted in two categories:

- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5

First, second, and third place winners will be announced for each category.

Suggested media for drawings are colored pencils, colors, watercolors, and poster paints. We discourage pastels or charcoal because these are fragile applications and may be harmed in the mailing/judging process. **Art must be submitted on sturdy 11" x 17" white poster board.** Our intent is to preserve the integrity of the student's artwork. Please do not affix the student's application to the entry using glue, tape, staples or any type of semi-permanent substance. (Applications are not attached during judging and we cannot guarantee that damage will not occur during removal of applications using semi-permanent substances.) Please title each entry and have the title listed at the top of the application as well as on the back of the entry itself in case an application gets separated.

The *Promote the Vote* Art Contest is open to all Mississippi students in grades kindergarten through Grade 5.

### **ART CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS**

Artists' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Submissions that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Submissions will be assigned an identification number upon receipt.
- Submissions will be judged for content, originality, and artistic merit.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.
- First, second, and third place winners will be selected from each of the two elementary-aged categories.

## ART CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's office by Friday, Dec. 6, 2013.
2. Entries must be sent to the Secretary of State's Office, *Promote the Vote* Art Contest, Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
3. Contestants must be enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Designate grade level.
4. Entries must be original artwork by the student.
5. Artwork must be submitted on sturdy 11x17 white poster board.
6. The contestant's name must NOT appear on the front of the artwork.
7. Only one entry per contest is allowed per contestant. Students may enter other contests.
8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2013.
9. Each piece of artwork must be accompanied by the art entry application. Only students with winning entries will be asked to supply their social security number; teachers will need to supply this information in a timely manner or the student will be disqualified.
10. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted artwork. Please take photos or make copies for the student's own records.

## VOTER ID DESIGN CONTEST

### Design your own voter ID card

Grades K-5

Two age-group categories: K-2 and 3-5.

We want students to understand the importance of a fair voter in which each registered voter who goes to the polls gets to have his or her voice heard. What would happen if you arrived ready to vote only to find someone had fraudulently voted in your place, did they vote the way you would have?

- This year's K-2<sup>nd</sup> and Grade 3-5 Grade Design Contests draw inspiration from our 2013 PTV theme: "**No One Can Be Me, But ME.**" Each student should design a Voter ID card with all the important elements they think should be included on such an ID card. Have the student write a short explanation of what they feel should be included and why.

All entries become the property of the Secretary of State's Office.

Awards will be granted in two categories:

- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-5

First, second, and third place winners will be announced for each category.

Suggested media for drawings are colored pencils, colors, watercolors, and poster paints and photos. We discourage pastels or charcoal because these are fragile applications and may be harmed in the mailing/judging process. **ID Designs should be two-sided and designed on two (2) blank 4x6 index cards and mounted onto sturdy 11" x 17" poster board. Please have the explanation mounted to the board as well.** Our intent is to preserve the integrity of the student's artwork. Please do not affix the student's application to the entry using glue, tape, staples or any type of semi-permanent substance. (Applications are not attached during judging and we cannot guarantee that damage will not occur during removal of applications using semi-permanent substances.) Please title each entry and have the title listed at the top of the application as well as on the back of the entry itself in case an application gets separated.

The *Promote the Vote* Contest is open to all Mississippi students in grades kindergarten through Grade 5 whose school is registered with Promote the Vote.

## **DESIGN CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS**

Artists' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Submissions that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Submissions will be assigned an identification number upon receipt.
- Submissions will be judged for content, originality, and artistic merit.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.
- First, second, and third place winners will be selected from each of the two elementary-aged categories.

## **ART CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES**

11. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's office by Friday, Dec. 6, 2013.
12. Entries must be sent to the Secretary of State's Office, *Promote the Vote* Voter ID Design Contest,  
Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
13. Contestants must be enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 5. Designate grade level.
14. Entries must be original artwork by the student.
15. Artwork must be submitted on sturdy 11x17 poster board.
16. The contestant's name must NOT appear on the front of the artwork.
17. Only one entry per contest is allowed per contestant. Students may enter other contests.
18. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2013.
19. Each piece of artwork must be accompanied by the art entry application. Only students with winning entries will be asked to supply their social security number; teachers will need to supply this information in a timely manner or the student will be disqualified.
20. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted artwork. Please take photos or make copies for the student's own records.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTESTS

## ART CONTEST

### **“No One Can Be Me, But ME”**

Grades 5-8

We encourage students in *Promote the Vote* to express their patriotism and creativity by designing artwork depicting civic responsibility and voter participation. Many times the works of these young artists make the most lasting impressions.

- This year's 5-8 Grade Art Contests draw inspiration from our 2013 PTV theme: **“No One Can Be Me, But ME.”** Art entries should illustrate the student's interpretation of this year's theme.

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All entries become the property of the Secretary of State's Office.

First, second, and third place winners will be announced for each category.

Suggested media for drawings are colored pencils, colors, watercolors, and poster paints. We discourage pastels or charcoal because these are fragile applications and may be harmed in the mailing/judging process. **Art must be submitted on sturdy 11" x 17" white poster board.** Our intent is to preserve the integrity of the student's artwork. Please do not affix the student's application to the entry using glue, tape, staples or any type of semi-permanent substance. (Applications are not attached during judging and we cannot guarantee that damage will not occur during removal of applications using semi-permanent substances.) Please title each entry and have the title listed at the top of the application as well as on the back of the entry itself in case an application gets separated.

The *Promote the Vote* Art Contest is open to all Mississippi students in grades 5-8.

### **ART CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS**

Artists' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Submissions that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Submissions will be assigned an identification number upon receipt.
- Submissions will be judged for content, originality, and artistic merit.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.
- First, second, and third place winners will be selected.

### **ART CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES**

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's office by Friday, Dec. 6, 2013.
2. Entries must be sent to the Secretary of State's Office, *Promote the Vote* Art Contest, Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
3. Contestants must be enrolled in grades 5-8. Designate grade level.
4. Entries must be original artwork by the student.
5. Artwork must be submitted on sturdy 11x17 white poster board.
6. The contestant's name must NOT appear on the front of the artwork.
7. Only one entry per contest is allowed per contestant. Students may enter other contests.
8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2013.
9. Each entry must be accompanied by the art entry application. Only students with winning entries will be asked to supply their social security number; teachers will need to supply this information in a timely manner or the student will be disqualified.

10. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted artwork. Please take photos or make copies for the student's own records.

## **POLITICAL CARTOON CONTEST**

**"No One Can Be Me, But ME"**

**Grades 6-8**

A political cartoon, also known as a non-cartoon, is an illustration containing a commentary that usually relates to current events or personalities. The 6-8 Political Cartoon Contest challenges students to investigate issues, determine their position and then produce a political cartoon illustrating their point of view using the theme **"No One Can Be Me, But ME."**

Students may draw a cartoon illustrating the 2013 PTV theme of **"No One Can Be Me, But ME."** Students' cartoons may also relate to the use/need for Voter ID.

*Teachers are encouraged to prepare students by examining several different political cartoons on varying subjects. Check online news sources such as the Clarion Ledger, New Yorker, NBC NEWS, NY Times, etc.*

### **POLITICAL CARTOON CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS**

Artists' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Submissions that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Submissions will be assigned an identification number upon receipt.
- Submissions will be judged for content, originality, and artistic merit.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.
- First, second, and third place winners will be selected.

### **POLITICAL CARTOON CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES**

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's office by Friday, Dec. 6, 2013.
2. Entries must be sent to the Secretary of State's Office, *Promote the Vote* Political Cartoon Contest, Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
3. Contestants must be enrolled in grades 5-8. Designate grade level.
4. Entries must be original artwork by the student.
5. Artwork must be submitted on sturdy 11x17 white poster board. Please do not affix the student's application to the entry using glue, tape, staples or any type of semi-permanent substance. (Applications are not attached during judging and we cannot guarantee that damage will not occur during removal of applications using semi-permanent substances.) Please title each entry and have the title listed at the top of the application as well as on the back of the entry itself in case an application gets separated.
6. The contestant's name must NOT appear on the front of the artwork.
7. Only one entry per contest is allowed per contestant. Students may enter other contests.
8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2013.
9. Each entry must be accompanied by the political cartoon entry application. Only students with winning entries will be asked to supply their social security number; teachers will need to supply this information in a timely manner or the student will be disqualified.
10. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted artwork. Please take photos or make copies for the student's own records.

# STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

**“No One Can Be Me, But ME”**

**Grades 6-8**

This activity allows Mississippi students a chance to express their views on important issues and provides a forum to have their opinions heard.

Students are asked to address the 2013 theme, **“No One Can Be Me, But ME.”** Students should fully develop ideas about how each American and each Mississippian is his/her own person with individual opinions, talents and ideas. You may also address how the use of Voter ID will help safeguard people at the polls so no one else can vote in another’s place.

Honors will be extended to first, second, and third place.

All Essay Contest submissions become the property of the Secretary of State’s Office upon arrival. The Secretary of State’s Office will not be able to return submitted essays. Please keep a copy for the student’s own records.

## **ESSAY CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS**

Student essay writers’ names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Essays that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Essays will be assigned an identification number upon receipt and no names will be associated with entries until after judging is complete.
- Essays will be judged for content, style, and form.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State’s Office.
- Identities of the judges will be kept secret.
- First, second and third place winners will be selected.

## **ESSAY CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES**

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State’s office in Jackson no later than Friday , Dec. 6, 2013.
2. Entries must be sent to the *Promote the Vote* Essay Contest, Secretary of State’s Office, Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
3. Essays must be typed, single-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 (letter size) paper.
4. All pages must be numbered in the upper right hand corner.
5. Essays are limited to two pages.
6. Contestants must be in Grades 6-8.
7. The essay must be the work of the contestant.
8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2013.
9. Direct quotations from sources must be properly attributed.
10. Only one essay may be submitted by each contestant.
11. Each entry must be accompanied by the political cartoon entry application. Only students with winning entries will be asked to supply their social security number; teachers will need to supply this information in a timely manner or the student will be disqualified.
12. Failure to comply with any rule will result in disqualification.

# HIGH SCHOOL CONTESTS

## ART CONTEST

**“No One Can Be Me, But ME”**

**Grades 9-12**

We encourage students in *Promote the Vote* to express their patriotism and creativity by designing artwork depicting civic responsibility and voter participation. Many times the works of these young artists make the most lasting impressions.

- This year's 9-12 Grade Art Contests draw inspiration from our 2013 PTV theme: **“No One Can Be Me, But ME.”** Art entries should illustrate the student's interpretation of this year's theme.

All entries become the property of the Secretary of State's Office.

First, second, and third place winners will be announced for each category.

Suggested media for drawings are colored pencils, colors, watercolors, and poster paints. We discourage pastels or charcoal because these are fragile applications and may be harmed in the mailing/judging process. **Art must be submitted on sturdy 11” x 17” white poster board.** Our intent is to preserve the integrity of the student's artwork. Please do not affix the student's application to the entry using glue, tape, staples or any type of semi-permanent substance. (Applications are not attached during judging and we cannot guarantee that damage will not occur during removal of applications using semi-permanent substances.) Please title each entry and have the title listed at the top of the application as well as on the back of the entry itself in case an application gets separated.

The *Promote the Vote* Art Contest is open to all Mississippi students in grades 9-12.

### **ART CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS**

Artists' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Submissions that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Submissions will be assigned an identification number upon receipt.
- Submissions will be judged for content, originality, and artistic merit.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.
- First, second, and third place winners will be selected.

### **ART CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES**

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's office by Friday, Dec. 6, 2013.
2. Entries must be sent to the Secretary of State's Office, *Promote the Vote* Art Contest, Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
3. Contestants must be enrolled in grades 9-12. Designate grade level.
4. Entries must be original artwork by the student.
5. Artwork must be submitted on sturdy 11x17 white poster board.
6. The contestant's name must NOT appear on the front of the artwork.
7. Only one entry per contest is allowed per contestant. Students may enter other contests.
8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2013.



9. Each entry must be accompanied by the art entry application. Only students with winning entries will be asked to supply their social security number; teachers will need to supply this information in a timely manner or the student will be disqualified.
10. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted artwork. Please take photos or make copies for the student's own records.

## **POLITICAL CARTOON CONTEST**

### **"No One Can Be Me, But ME"**

### **Grades 9-12**

Political cartoons are an influential way for individuals to express political opinions and send a powerful message. The combination of artistry and humor or poignancy often creates indelible images in the minds of readers. We believe students have the ability to use this unique medium.

A political cartoon, also known as a non-cartoon, is an illustration containing a commentary that usually relates to current events or personalities. The 9-12 Political Cartoon Contest challenges students to investigate issues, determine their position and then product a political cartoon illustrating their point of view using the theme **"No One Can Be Me, But ME."**

Students may draw a cartoon illustrating the 2013 PTV theme of **"No One Can Be Me, But ME."** Students' cartoons may also relate to the use/need for Voter ID.

All entries become the property of the Secretary of State's Office.

First, second, and third place winners will be announced.

Participants must use white, unlined cardstock or poster board. Cartoons must be submitted on sturdy 11x17 white poster or illustration board. Cartoons may be submitted either in Black/White or in full color. Our intent is to preserve the integrity of the student's artwork. Please do not affix the student's application to the entry using glue, tape, staples or any type of semi-permanent substance. (Applications are not attached during judging and we cannot guarantee that damage will not occur during removal of applications using semi-permanent substances.) Please title each entry and have the title listed at the top of the application as well as on the back of the entry itself in case an application gets separated.

The *Promote the Vote* Political Cartoon Contest is open to Mississippi students in Grades 9-12.

### ***POLITICAL CARTOON/ART CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS***

Artists' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Submissions that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Submissions will be assigned an identification number upon receipt.
- Submissions will be judged for content, originality and artistic merit.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State.
- First, second, and third place winners will be selected.

### ***STATE POLITICAL CARTOON CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES***

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's office in Jackson no later than Friday, Dec. 6, 2013.
2. Entries must be sent to the Secretary of State's Office, *Promote the Vote* Political Cartoon Contest, Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
3. Contestants must be enrolled in grades nine through twelve.
4. Entries must be original artwork by the student, in black ink, full color or pencil, on white paper.
5. The contestant's name must **NOT** appear on the front of the political cartoon.
6. Cartoons must be submitted on sturdy 11x17 white poster board.
7. Only one entry is allowed per contestant.
8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2013.
11. Each entry must be accompanied by the political cartoon entry application. Only students with winning entries will be asked to supply their social security number; teachers will need to supply this information in a timely manner or the student will be disqualified.
9. Failure to comply with any rule will result in disqualification.
10. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted political cartoons. Please take photos or make copies for the student's own records.

## ESSAY CONTEST

### **"No One Can Be Me, But ME"**

### Grades 9-12

This activity allows Mississippi students a chance to express their views on important issues and provides a forum to have their opinions heard.

Students are asked to address the 2013 theme, **"No One Can Be Me, But ME"**. Students should fully develop ideas about how each American and each Mississippian is his/her own person with individual opinions, talents and ideas. You may also address how the use of Voter ID will help safeguard people at the polls so no one else can vote in another's place.

Honors will be extended to first, second, and third place.

All Essay Contest submissions become the property of the Secretary of State's Office upon arrival. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted essays. Please keep a copy for the student's own records.

### **ESSAY CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS**

Student essay writers' names and addresses will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Essays that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Essays will be assigned an identification number upon receipt and no names will be associated with entries until after judging is complete.
- Essays will be judged for content, style, and form.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.
- Identities of the judges will be kept secret.
- First, second and third place winners will be selected.

### **ESSAY CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES**

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's office in Jackson no later than Friday, Dec. 6, 2013..

2. Entries must be sent to the *Promote the Vote* Essay Contest, Secretary of State's Office, Attn: Laura Walker, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
3. Essays must be typed, single-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 (letter size) paper.
4. All pages must be numbered in the upper right hand corner.
5. Essays are limited to two pages.
6. Contestants must be in Grades 9-12.
7. The essay must be the work of the contestant.
8. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2013.
9. Only one editorial may be submitted by each contestant.
10. Each entry must be accompanied by the essay entry application. Only students with winning entries will be asked to supply their social security number; teachers will need to supply this information in a timely manner or the student will be disqualified.
11. Failure to comply with any rule will result in disqualification.

## **ORATORY CONTEST**

### **“Voter ID, No One Can BE Me, But ME”**

This activity allows Mississippi students a chance to express their views on important issues and utilize the spoken word to persuade others to accept their point of view.

Students are encouraged to investigate both the pros and the cons of the Electoral College. Students should examine why it was put in place, whether they feel it is still a relevant process for electing president and if its use diminishes the power of a single vote. After students determine their own position, he or she should then write and deliver a five-minute oral argument or speech which summarizes their opinion and attempts to persuade readers to adopt their chosen position to keep or dismantle the Electoral College.

Teachers are encouraged to discuss the Electoral College with their class and how it has affected past elections as well as its overall history. Students need to have a fundamental understanding of how the Electoral College works and why the founding fathers felt it was necessary to have an indirect election process for the selection of president.

Top arguments from both sides will be invited to Jackson to present their positions at the spring ceremony.

All written and DVD submissions become the property of the Secretary of State's Office upon arrival. The Secretary of State's Office will not be able to return submitted presentations. Please keep a copy for the student's own records.

### **ORATORY CONTEST JUDGING PROCESS**

Student orators' names and addresses and school affiliations will be kept secret from the judges until winners are announced.

- Entries that do not conform to the Official Rules of the Contest shall be ineligible for competition.
- Entries will be assigned an identification number upon receipt and no names will be associated with entries until after judging is complete.
- Entries will be judged for content, style, and presentation.
- A panel of judges will be selected by the Secretary of State's Office.
- Identities of the judges will be kept secret.

### **DEBATE CONTEST OFFICIAL RULES**

1. All entries must be received by the Secretary of State's office in Jackson no later than Friday, Dec. 6, 2013. Students must submit both a written copy of the speech as well as a DVD of the verbal presentation.
2. Entries must be sent to the *Promote the Vote* Oratory Contest, Secretary of State's Office,  
Attn: Lea Anne Brandon, Post Office Box 136, Jackson, MS 39205.
3. Speeches must be typed, single-spaced, on 8.5 x 11 (letter size) paper.
4. The presentations must be no longer than 5 minutes in length.
5. Contestants must be in Grades 9-12.
6. The entry must be the work of the contestant.
7. The participant submitting the entry must be a student in a class that registered for Promote the Vote 2013.
8. Only one entry may be submitted by each contestant.
9. Each entry must be accompanied by the political oratory entry application. Only students with winning entries will be asked to supply their social security number; teachers will need to supply this information in a timely manner or the student will be disqualified.
10. Failure to comply with any rule will result in disqualification.